Folder 16: Swogger, Alfred D. (Metlakatla) 1935-1940

May 17, 1935.

Rev.A.D.Swogger
Metlakatla
Alaska .
Dear Mr. Swogger:

I have your letter of May 5th,which I have read with deepest interest. I am glad to have this opportunity of expressing my appriciation of the tactful way in which you have met the difficulti/ situations which have arisen and which I am sure have at times been very troublesome owing to the activities of the Duncan group. It is encouraging to know that you have met these conditions patiently and that you have had the grace quietly to go on,concentrating your efforts upon the building up our own work.

****

From letter dated,
September 15th,1937.

I note what you write concerning the situation in the Duncan Church. I share your fears that Dr.Kohlstedt's appointment as a Trustee of the Duncan estate is going to be used by him as an effort to turn that church over to the Methodist Church or to gain control of the funds of the Duncan estate for a vigorous and aggressive Methodist missionary program in Alaska.. Dr. Kohlstedt disavows any such intention. However,he does say that our church in Metlakatla is so weak that it ought to be absorbed by the Duncan Church. I have listened to this statment with much interest,but have not made an issue out of it, preferring to wait until some overt act of violation of comity a agreement is committed before I say what I have to say.

In the meantime,I think it is very important for you to go ahead with the building of the manse. This would be a demonstration to the Duncan Church and to our Methodist friends also that we intend to stay in Metlakatla ,and such a demonstration made at this particular time would have a salutary effect upon the attitude of the community toward our Presbyterian work. I am sure you will appriciate the strategic value of pressing forward ~~at this time~~/in this matter now.

Signed by
J.M.Somerndike

A. D. Swogger Aug. 17, 1936.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The people are busy at this season, working long hours, and just as fast as the persons in charge of the work can get them to move. When I say long hours are put in by most all the people, that means for some of the old Ladies, begining work at 5 A.M. and working until 11:00 P.M. or later.

This year the age restriction has been removed, so that the younger people are working in the warehouse, while the older people work in the fish-house. The babies and young children are looked after by those who are just too young to work. So that every one is busy somewhere.

These six weeks are most trying ones, for those who have a number of people from one house working in the Cannery. They want to earn just as much in this short time, as at all possible in order to buy supplies for the remainder of the y year. And so every thing else is put aside, in order that they may get in so many hours.

Just now the Missionary is busy with getting the young people lined up for Sitk, or S.J.S. Getting the applications filled out, when all the young people are so busy; seeing that they get their fees in, and get their medical examination, helps to keep one busy. The new group going up this year is a promising one, and if the former students return who should do so, Metlakatla will be well represented. The boys on the Sein boats are not earning much money this year, or have not been up to the present, so some of the boys fear they will not be able to return to S.J.S. We do hope things may improve during the next ten days, and all may turn out well.

A.D. Swogger

Dec. 1937

Narrative Report.

With all the confusion & turmoil of the Jubilee celebration together with other distractions in the air, the Presbyterian family manifested a very splendid spirit during the days of the excitement. Things were not as they should have been, but when any dissatisfaction was mentioned by some one, the Pastor did his best to quiet the nerves & so avoided many unpleasantnesses. Though some of the people older ones, are like unruly children, most of them are fairly reasonable, & their Pastor is quite happy in trying to serve them.

The spirit manifested on the part of many of the Church men, concerning the building of the house, is very splendid indeed. They have been working fine & are quite willing & ready to please their Minister, & wish to make him & family as comfortable as possible in the new house. So the work of the Church goes on, and many indications for permanency are manifested by the people.

The Missionary and his good wife are very much encouraged, & heartened by the people for greater undertaking in the coming year. Many manifestations of prayers answered, are most evident. The Lord is good to His servants.

Petersburg, Alaska
January 15, 1938

Miss Florence Hayes
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Hayes

In answer to your request am enclosing some material which I hope will prov interesting to your readers. Use any or all as suits you best. Yes, we received the negatives many months ago. Thank you.

Sincerely yours

WINTER ON THE PRINCETON

Overheard in the Sheldon Jackson School laundry:- "The Princeton's coming in tonight. Exclamations! And "Oh good, I'll be glad to see her again".

Up at Haines House:- The last child has been tucked in for the night-quiet and order just about reign supreme when suddenly - a whistle is heard. With one accord the children sit up in bed."there's the Princeton!" Talking and excitement.When Miss Lawrence brings the crew up from the boat in her car, Haines House is wide awake.

In Many and various villages:-"Well, there she is" or "the Princeton is in! As far as construction goes, the Princeton is just an ordinary well built boat but to these adults and children alike, absent from home for months, some for years, she is more. In this land of many islands, with miles of water stretched in between each town and village located on them, the Princeton is the link betweenfamily, friends and pleasant memories. Because of her they are never actual separated from their loved ones. She comes fresh with news and greeting from the "old home town". "Where have you come from?" "did you see my dad?" "Will you be stopping in at Kake?" "Tell my mother you have seen me and that I'm alright". "Will you deliver this box to my daughter in Sitka?""Please take this letter to John" Thus from village to village carrying verbal and written messages, good news and bad.

Just lately we made a trip from Metlakatla to Haines, a distance of 350 miles. The Princeton was the means of transportation for motherless Minnie and Roy, bound for Haines House. Traveling on her was not only less expensive but it made the severance from home ties less abrupt. By the time we had reached Haines they had won such a big places in our hearts we were sorry to give them up. Stopping along the way at Wrangell, Petersburg, Kake, Angoon and Hoonah, we were soo loaded with boxes of canned goods, dry fish, mocassins et cetera from our various Missionary Societies and other boxes for individual children from relatives and friends and then as we were to eventually reach Sitka, other boxes were stowed away from parents to their children at Sheldon Jackson School. How the faces light up when we bring boxes and letters from home!

Wind, rain, snow, freezing weather, crisp bright moonlit nights! Traveling on the Princeton in winter is never dull. Going across Sumner Straits the temperature had dropped to ten above zero and a thirty mile wind was blowing. Water spraying over our decks was turned to ice and by the time we pulled in to Petersburg the Princeton looked more like a good sized iceberg than a boat. The cold weather did not last long however. It warmed up enough for us to run into a blinding snow storm on our way to Kake. Visibility was very poor. The captain and helper stayed in the pilot house throughout the night staring steadily into the snow for recognizable landmarks and known lights! Chart and compass were constantly in use and our faith in them was justified for by two a.m. we made out the welcome lights of Kake. We stayed over night to hold a well attended service. On New Years Eve we anchored i n Angoon's harbor where we conducted a Watch Night service.The church was crowded and despite the late hour of that service the Communion service of the next morning and the Sunday evening service were also well attended.

Rev.and Mrs.Bromley boarded our boat at Hoonah to make the trip to Ha nes and back with us. The trip of eight hours from Hoonah to Juneau was "bumpy" all the way. Those of us who could took to our bunks and stayed there most of the time. The sight of the lights of Juneau was indeed welcomed as we rounded the south end of Douglas Island to go up Gastineau Channel. We remained all of the next day in this our "Jerusalem", visiting "doctors, lawyers, merchants and chiefs", getting all the business and shopping done which we had stored up for one of these rare visits to the city. During our stay the wind had died down so our trip up Lynn Canal from Juneau to Haines with a full moon in a clear sky lighting our way, was perfect. We were allreluctant to go to bed for the snow covered mountains along the way reflecting the light of the noon, all mirrored in the dark smooth waters below, presented scenery too beautiful to describe and too beautiful to miss. We arrived in Haines the next morning and donned boots and snow suits to go up and let the women of Haines House know we were in. But that was unnecessary as the children had already spied us and announced excitedly "the Princeton's in$" The farm manager was informed, the sled hitched to the team and down to the boat we went once more to unload all the boxes of good things for the children we had picked up along the way.

We left Haines the same night after a service in the church for the ten hour trip back to Hoonah. Stayed there over night to leave early next morning for an all day's journey to "Pelican City". It is only a trollers camp and cold storage in the making but someone has tacked on the "city" so "Pelican City" it will probably remain. Fourty men are employed ther. We took our little organ and song books ashore and held a service in the "mess hall". We had a fair turnout and a good meeting. From Pelican City we went over to the Hirst-Chichagoff ang Old Chichagoff gold mines for Sunday and Monday. We were gratified by splendid attendance and a most cordial re ception in both places. Some of you will remember our visit to Old Chichagoff last summer where a Sunday School was organized. Some of the children have left but one mother is still holding a Sunday School in her home for ten or more children.

Going over to Sitka made it necessary for us to go out into the open ocean We ran into wind and storm and for almost four hours were tossed and buffedtd at the will of ocean and wind. We were thankful when we could turn into inside waters for the storm was steadily growing worse. We delivered more boxes and letters said "hello" to friends and were on our way again this time heading for Kake. We stopped on the way though in Saginaw Bay to visit with a cannery watchman and his wife, also with an old troller living alone near the cannery. In all of these places we leave Bible tracts and reading materials and Gospels. We usually are promised that they will be read. When we hold services in the out of way places we leave the material on a table and invite those interested to come and help themselves. Seldom will there be a Gospel or tract left. We stopped in at a fox island to visit with a young couple and their three children. Mr. Swanson had the privilege of baptizing their youngest child. After a happy visit we went on to Kake. We held the Communion service in the morning. Three babies and three adults were baptized in the evening, the three adults also being received into the fellowship of the church on confession of their faith in The Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

Now back to Petersburg for a few days to see how our Sunday School and Missionary Society is doing and to hold services for two Sundays and Wednesdays. Our next trip will take in the south end and west coast .

Rev.& Mrs. Irene J. Swanson

A.D.Swogger February 1938

NARRATIVE REPORT

We returned to Alaska after a six weeks stay with friends in the States.

On our return we found everything in good order,and the people quite happy. All were very happ yto have had Rev.Geo.Beck as their Shepherd during my absence. His stay on the Field was most profitable to the work,and I believe Rev.Mr.Beck enjoyed the work for the short time he ws here,though he was glad to see us back. He was anxious to get back to the bustle and excitment of Ketchikan life,and to be with his children again.

The first evening we were back,the choir held a reception for us,rejoicing in our return. There were about 150 present in the Christian Endeavor Hall. The Ketchikan Church was invited to attend,and a few came over. The evening was a most happy one. All were quite interested in hearing all about our trip,and what we saw down in the States. When any one goes out of Alaska,they speak of it as 'going down to the States'.

The following Sunday evening, the choir rendered the Christmas Cantata,"The Glory of Bethlehem" for their Pastor to hear,and show him how well they could do it. The rendation was very splendid indeed; as good as any I heard during our soujorn in the States. Before coming over to Metlakatla from Ketchikan,the people in Ketchikan,told me that the Choir had given the cantata in their Church,and it was quite wonderful. Every one did his and her part so well. And they got back home without any of our people getting liquor,which made me fel so good,for the temptation is awfully strong there,and some of our people are weak at times.

New officers were elected during our absence, and the work for the New Year was taken up,and all is f functioning very well indeed. The choir continues its splendid work; the Sunday School is holding up well, and the Chriatian Endeavor is showing real new life . The Executive Comm. met at our home a week ago,having planned a short meeting,but it was 12:30A.M. before they got through with the business,and every moment was full of interest,and profit

Am I gald to get back to Alaska? Yes indeed! After six weeks stay about San Francisco Bay area,I am glad to be here again. My people look mighty good to me,and are loyal as any group anywhere. Of course if I had the choice of one of two possibilities,I would choose being near our children,for I feel they need us,and I am mighty sure their Dad needs them mightly.

So we have entered upon the second half of our first decade in Alaska,and the work not only is more interesting this time,but I find much more real joy in the work ,as I go about ministering to these people.

June
15th
1938

Rev. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla
Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

I am enclosing herewith a page from THE STAR WEEKLY of Toronto, which describes the very romantic missionary enterprise that is being carried on by the Board of Home Missions of the United Church of Canada. It appealed to me very strongly as a type of work that might well be introduced into our program of Presbyterian missions in southeastern Alaska. Of course, we have the Princeton, and I realize that it is used occasionally to carry sick people to the hospital and for other types of work similar to what is described in this article; but it has always seemed to me that the Princeton is kept so busy on other errands that it does not seem possible to use it specifically for a program of human welfare and evangelism such as is visualized in the activity of the United Church Marine Missions on the British Columbia coast. If there is need in that area, it seems to me that there is still more need among the natives in southeastern Alaska.

Since I have been obliged to abandon my hope of using the Princeton primarily for this type of work, much as I would like to see it done, I have had it in mind to give Walter Soboleff an appointment to do this very kind of work when he graduates from Dubuque next spring. The girl he is going to marry is a trained nurse; and if we could appoint them as itinerant missionaries, equip them with a boat not nearly so large or pretentious as the Princeton, I believe they would be able to carry out the plan which I have longed to inaugurate in our work in southeastern Alaska but for which the way has not seemed to be clear since I found that the Princeton either was not available or not adaptable to this type of ministry.

My purpose in sending this article to you is, first of all, to sow the idea of inaugurating work of this kind in the minds of the members of Alaska Presbytery; and, second, to secure the reaction of each of you to the plan which I have in mind, to appoint Walter Soboleff as an itinerant evangelist, equipped with a boat, and with his wife as a nurse to carry on a purely evangelistic work among the natives in the little villages and canneries, whom we do not reach in the program of the Princeton and among whom it is not necessary or advisable to establish churches or to erect church buildings. What we want above all things is to take Christ into the hearts and lives of individual natives, and I shall never feel that our program of Alaska missions is thoroughly efficient until we have a missionary who is reaching the scattered, isolated, and unevangelized portion of the native population who are living in the small villages all along the southeastern Alaska coast.

I am taking you into my confidence in this matter, and I hope you will write me frankly giving me your reaction to these plans which I have in mind and which I have discussed with Walter Soboleff with his hearty approval, and which have been brought to a focus by the reading of this article concerning the Marine Missions of the United Church, of whose ministry I was not aware until this paper came into my hands.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

A. D. Swogger June 20 1938

NARRATIVE REPORT

Time seems to be at such a premiuum just now that the Missionary scarce knows how to find time to write the letter he should, and answer the requests which are so insistant.

As will be observed in the statistical report, much of the month was spent at Conference and in Juneau, but am very happy to report that the work went along just the same. When I arranged with the the Elders to be away from the Field for two Sundays, they offered look after the supplies for the Sunday Services. I believe in letting as many people work as will, and do as much as they can. So I left the matter in their hands, and am very happy to report that they seem to have been quite faithful in assuming the responsibility. The attendance kept up quite well, and all seem to have been satisfied. Two deaths accured in the congregation during my absence, the one I was expecting, and so had arranged with Mr. Beck to come over and minister to their needs, which he did in both cases, most satisfactoraly.

What is the Missionary so busy about during these days? He has set himself the task of building a manse for the Church, with the help of the National Board, and it looks very much as if the two will have to assume the greater responibility, if the undertaking proves to be a success. Promies were made to do the work, and all that, but promises are such short lived things so often and most noticibly here, when a real contribution in free labor is concerned. The people have contributed a lot, but the ones who talked the loudest in the begining of the undertaking, are the last to offer any concrete service. So the Missionary is a busy man, but work is progressing, and will go forward.

And so the work for the Kingdom goes forward, not always according to our planing, but the trend is forward and upward, and so we rejoice

Received via C.D.S.

Metlakatla, Alaska.
June, 28 1938.

Dr. J.M. Somerndike
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike;

I am enclosing expense voucher for the month of June, together with receipts for monies paid out.

Am happy to report that the work of building the manse is progressing nicely. The free labor promised, did not come forth generously as at first indicated. The promise of free labor was readily expressed, and almost as readily forgotten.

There has been a great deal of work this Spring and early Summer, and it was impossible to get men to do the work, until the school closed. One of the teachers in the school who is a splendid carpenter is giving me a month of his vacation, at a reasonable rate, and is pushing the work, with a vengence. Too, our boys are home from school, and are helping with the work until the cannery begins operation.

I am working along with the carpenter every day, and pushing the work as fast as possible.

Sincerely yours,

C. D. Swogger

Metlakatla Presbyterian Church

ALFRED D. SWOGGER, PASTOR

Metlakatla, Alaska

July 3d 1941.

Rev. Evere t B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I am enclosing a Money Order, monies collected by the Metlakatla Presbyterian Church, for the Princeton-Hall, and asking on behalf of the Church that this amount be designated for a set of stainless steel cooking ware for the galley, which I am told is already purchased.

We are planing to raise another $100.00 which we would like to have designated for matresses for the bunks.

Will be glad to see you in Alaska again this Summer or Fall, if possible. However if you confine your visit to Sitka only, my hopes of seeing you are rather faint.

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

Sunday 14th

Juneau – Tues Sept 9th

July 8, 1941

Air Mail

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Brother Swogger:

Enclosed you will find a Treasurer's receipt for $100, representing Metlakatla Presbyterian Church's contribution to the Princeton-Hall equipment. Thank you, and through you please take my thanks to the members of your church.

I expect to be in Juneau Tuesday, September ninth, and will try to be with you in Metlakatla Sunday, September fourteenth. I want to spend two or three days with you.

Cordially yours,

EBK:HB

A. D. SWOGGER July 18, 1938

NARRATIVE REPORT

Returning from Juneau and the Young People's Conference, found the work on the New manse started, and going along nicely. The carpenter was alone in the work, and a helper was necessary, so the Minister had to take hold again, and has been working each day since then, from 8 A.M. until 5 P.M., and a few evenings he worked over time, that it was possible to work. Fair progress is being made on the house, and most of the material is on hand so that nothing should hold up the wrok from now on.

The fishing season opened the 5th of July, and many people are out on the boats, and those remaining at home are busy in the cannery, so that the usual summer drop off is due, and here in part. Happy to report though, that the interest in Church activities has kept up better this summer than at other times. July 10th for the evening Service there were 126 ~~pre~~ in attendance. A great many of them were young people who had been away at school, and all were very attentive. It was a group which would have challenged the best in any Minister, I am sure.

Some one suggested that the Metlakatla boats put on a parade for Ketchikan, on the 3d of July. The boat owners were quite willing to show off, so the parade was arranged, and 17 of our fishing boats participated. Not only the boats with their crews, but many of the towns people took advantage of a free ride to Ketchikan, and so the town was very much deserted for the day. Most of the boats returned in time for the celebratin on the 4th, little the worse for the trip.

It is not possible to put on a Vacation Bible School this year on account of the presing work of the manse, in order to get it ready for use this Fall . In place of the Bible School, the Government School is putting on a summer session, and Mrs. Swogger has been asked to take a part in that. She is planing a Bible course of a daily period of one hour. This is a new undertaking and the outcome is a bit uncertain, but it is worth trial, and it will give a chance to put on some Bible teaching, which could not be done this year because of the strenuous undertaking of thebuilding poject for this year.

Dr.J.M.Somerndike
New York,N.Y.

Metlakatla, Alaska,July 19,1938

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

We had a nice visit with Dr.and Mrs. McLeod last Thur. on their tour of So.E.Alaska on the Princeton. We enjoyed meeting them very much,and tried to give them as good a picture of the work here,as we could in the short time they were in port. And for the Princeton,I would like to say that she looks so much better since she got her new coat of white paint. A manifestly greater interest in the apperance of the boat and in other thngs pertaining to the interest of our Alaskan work,was evidenced on the part of the Skipper.

I am happy to report that the work on the manse is making progress. Just when it will be ready for occupancy is still uncertain,but the work is being pushed as rapidly as possible. The carpenter I secured to take charge of the building is a splendid workman,and as honest as any I could find anywhere. Since returning from the Y.P.S.C. at Sitka I have been working with him every day possible ,from 8 A.M. until 5 P.M. Our two boys came up the 20th of June,and since then they have been helping on the house,and have done a lot of work. They are working in the Cannery a part of the time,but when not there ,are helping with the building.

You may recall that I mentioned an arrangment in which the people of the Church,men, would do the work. That promise is not being kept as I had hoped,and so I am having to employ a carpenter longer that I had intended,and do more of the work my self ,or get it done on my own,in order to put the deal over. With the Swoggers working so much,I am hoping to complete the house,and keep withing the estimated allowance. The men of the Church have fallen down in their part of the undertaking,but I do not condemn them too severly for that. During the winter and until late Spring the weather was such that it was impossible to get any building done. The work has gone forward just as rapidly as possible since my return to Metlakatla from furlough. The men of the Church have not been earning since early last Fall. When the weather did finally settle so that outside work could be done,the City work,and also work in the cannery in preperation for the fishing season, opened up and employed every possible man and boy. The wage was .50¢ per hr,and this year the work continued up until the fishing season opened. They did not feel like turning down a chance to earn,to do the work which had waited so long,and so could wait a little longer,and maybe not get another chance to get on the pay-roll. Generous donations of labor have been made by some of the men and more will be made, when the rush of the work is over.

Just how much I will be able to save from the $2200.00 asked for and which was granted in your letter of June 19,1937 I cannot say,but will do my very best to complete the house on

thgt. I had hoped to save enough from the grant for the building to encourage me in asking for a grant from, that amount for a heating system, but my hopes are fading away.

In your letter of Jar. 14th 1938 you say you are paying a bill to Montgomery Ward & Co. of $374.79. In checking over the expenditures up to the present, I came across that amount. In their invoice they allow a discount of 10% or a reduction on that bill of $37.47. I call attention to this item in as much as it will help a lot in the completion of the work undertaken.

Sincerely yours,

C. L. Swagger

A. D. Swogger Aug. 14, 1938.

NARRATIVE REPORT

In my last month's report I mentioned the possibility of a course of Bible instruction, taught by Mrs. Swogger, in connection with the Summer School session in the Public School.

Mrs. Smyth, wife of the Minister of the Duncan Church, and Mrs. Swogger each had a division for Bible instruction, and activity period. The school had an enrollment of 75 or a few more. Mrs. Swogger had an enrollment, in her division of 50, with an average daily attendance of 27. She spent 1 1/2 hours in the school, dividing that time between Bible Story period, Memory work, and an activity period. She feels that the venture was a profitable one. It was a variation from the regular Vacation Church School, and was a lot easier handled. However we do not feel that it took the place of a regular V. C. S, but under the existing circumstances was a good substitute.

I find in comparing my reports with those of a year ago, the Church attendance has kept up better this year than before. I feel there is an increase in interest in Spiritual things, slight though it may be.

There was a fear expressed by some, that a new voice in the other Church might lead some away, to hear some new voice, but as yet the fears have not been disturbing. There is more or less going back at all times, but no more this summer, than at other times. The opportunities there have been for comparing the attendance in the two Churches, have shown the Presbyterian Church holding its own. No, comparing Church with Church, we of the Presbyterian family are not in the least discouraged.

The work on the new manse is progressing. The outside work is being pushed as rapidly as possible, in order to get the building painted before the bad weather of the Fall ests in. We receive many commendations from interested visitors on the progress being made. It is earnestly hoped that it will be ready for occupancy before the wintersets in.

A. D. SWOGGER Sept. 1[illegible], 1938.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The project taking the most of my physical strength during the past month, has been the work on the new manse. The work is progressin, but very slowly, as I am alone on the job, with no hope for help in sight.

August has been an off month, as is so often the case, for the Church. This year seems to have been worse, on account of so many Unions. On two or three occasions large crowds went over to Metchikan on Sunday. After the cannery season, then the people busy themselves with putting up their home supply of fish for the winter. And some of them just seem to have to relax for some weeks, after the strenuous days in the cannery. So the month has gone, and things are gradually coneing back to normality.

This is the month for the children and young people going away to school. On counting up the number of young people away from Metlakatla attending school, we find the number to be 52. Of this number 27 are Presbyterians. The number atttending our school at Sitka is 19. The number in attendance at college is 6. They are attending as many different institutions.

Of course we are glad to see our yound people attend school but it sure does cripple our work at home. So hard to find leaders to carry on the work at home. But so we struggle wiong, and hope the work will prosper, and worthwhile fruits will be forth coming some time.

Sept.
22nd
1938

Rev. A. D. Swogger,
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

Your letter of September 15th arrived after Dr. Somerndike had left the office to fill a number of synod engagements, and we are obliged to hold it until his return the latter part of October. I am sure he will share your disappointment in the delay in finishing the manse, but no doubt this was unavoidable and we hope you will be able to move into the new building sooner than you now expect.

Dr. Somerndike will undoubtedly write you when he returns.

Very sincerely yours,

BH Secretary to Dr. Somerndike.

P. S. We would suggest that you write: Mr. Gene C. Gould, 1204 American Bank Building, Seattle, Wash., regarding special discounts which may be allowed to our Alaska missionaries. Mr. Gould handles all of our Alaska purchases and I believe he is able to secure special discounts on certain items of merchandise.

B.H.

Metlakatla, Alaska. Sept. 13, 1938.

Dr. J.M. Somerndike
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike:

You mentioned in a recent letter the possibility of the Presbytery securing another small boat and having Walter Soboleff and his wife work among the villages. I don't think another boat should be purchased for such an undertaking, at this time. I feel very strongly that that is the work of the "Princeton", and that she should be made more efficient for evangelistic work. I feel that a great work can be accomlished by means of the 'Princeton', maned by a consecrated staff. To secure the RIGHT staff may not be an easy matter, but a worthwhile effort should be made before venturing on another project.

I feel Walter Soboleff should be put in charge of a Church where he can have a chance to work out definate things, and get his bearings with relation to the work of the Presbytery. If I might put it in another way, I would say, give him a chance to find himself. I have noted that so many young men coming out of the Seminary needed time to select and arrange, from their gatherings of Seminary years, those things which will be most useful to them is serving the Church in the future.

The work of the manse is not going along so rapidly as I should like to see. The carpenter whom I secured for the summer, had leave for two months from his work in the school. He has had to go back to the school, and so I am alone again. During the summer, the cannery and city employed every other available man, and now they are starting extensive repairs in the cannery which will employ a great many men. So I don't know where I could get a man to help me even was able to pay, which I will not be able to do, and keep within the bounds of the estimate. So instead of moving into the house in early Oct. as I had hoped to do, it will be late Nov. before the house is ready. I am still much concerned about the heating arrangments. As yet I have nothing definate in mind. I think the satisfactory thing would be a pipeless furnace. A pipe furnace would be better, of course, but should be installed before the walls are closed up. It looks as if we will have to buy an electric range for the kitchen, and we just can't manage that and the heater. The apartment we are living in, the stove and heater both belong to the Lady who owns the house, and they are both wood and coal burning. Does the Board have any arrangment with either Westinghouse, or General Electric companies about purchasing goods? When I went to the Foreign work, the Board gave me letters to different stores in New York, where I was able to purchase supplies at a considerable savings.

The Duncan people are building a manse this Fall. The new Minister, Rev. Schmidt, seems to be very much alive, and is geting things done. I have frequent talks with him, and he does not hesitate to say that the Trustees are going to come up to their agreement or he won't stay. He says things are not as represented to him when the proposition was presented to him. He says" I was given a rosy picture of the whole lay out here. Mention was made that there was a Presbyterian Church here, but it was going to close very soon, then I would be incharge of the whole community." He agreed to stay for one year, and if every thing is O.K. may stay for at least five years.. The house theyare building is a seven room, with full basement. To be heated by oil-burning hot air furnace, with airconditioning arangments. The newly appointed Sect. for the Trustees, who lives in Ketchikan, told me the estimate for the house was $7000.00, but he was afraid it would go beyond thatfigure. Then next year, they plan to dismantle the old Church and build a more modern one. Whether that comes about, remains to be seen. The situation here is one full of interst. As things are here just now, there is work enough for both; when the work so developes, so that the community becomes one minded I would not venture a prediction.

Schmidt and I are agreed that something should be done regarding the drink situation . He suggests that we both write either to Ickes or Collier, or both, to see if anything can be done. Though liquor is not supposed to be brought onto the island, it is being brought here, and sold secretly. The drinkning, though, is not secretly, in fact it is very open. Noting is done about it, either by the City Council, or the Government representitive. The people all know that they are breaking the laws wehn liquor is brought here, but nothing is done about it, so why not disregard any law which does not suit! nothing will be done about, until even the young boys are disregarding property rights, social rights&c.

I wonder if you read the article in the "Missionary Herald" of May 1938, page 202 . It is a Congregational and Christian Church paper, and the article give a most distorted view of the Indians, and the occasion of their coming here.

I am enclosing some pictures of the new manse, giving some idea of it location , and relation to the community center. In number 3 right foreground, you will see a part of the town hall. During the winter, it is the one place of greatest activity. Basket-ball, parites, dances &c, are held here. It is availabe to our Church for dinners, and other gatherings which our own social hall will not accomodate. Too, we cooperate in all community enterprises. Living close to the Church and the hall will be of very great advantage during the winter months, when the weather is so stormy. Also I believe I will be able to carry on a more extensive program with my young people, from this new vantage.

Many people have commented most favorably on the structure and plan of the house, and its pleasing apperance.

When you come to Alaska again, we hope you may enjoy its comforts.

Sincerely yours, A D Swogger

Oct.
21st
1938

Rev. A. D. Swogger,
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

Just a line to express our appreciation of the splendid work you have been doing in the erection of the new manse and also to express to your sons our deep appreciation of the splendid help which they have given you in the work.

Regarding the matter of a heater for the new manse, I have written to Mr. Pederson requesting him to authorize you to proceed with the purchase of a pipeless furnace which I understand will cost about $150 including installation. I want you to buy the heater at once. We do not have any arrangements with Westinghouse, General Electric, or any other Company to purchase materials of this kind at a special price. Mr. Pederson has informed me that you can arrange to buy the pipeless furnace that you want for $150.

I hope that you will soon be able to get into the new manse. Thank you very much for the photographs which you enclosed.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

Metlakatla, Alaska. Nov.2,1938

Mr. Gene C. Gould
Seattle, Wash.

Dear Mr. Gould:

I waited long and patiently for a communication from the firm you mentioned handling furnaces,but nothing came,so I am ordering from Mont.Ward Co, and asking the to send the bill to you.

Dr. Somerndike gives me a little rope,and so I am taking a little more. He writes concerning the heater; Quote"Regarding the matter of a heater for the new manse, I have written Mr. Pederson requesting him to authorize you to proceed with the purchase of a pipeless furnace which I understand will costabout $150.00 including installation. I want you to buy the heater at once." End of quote.

With the small basement we have,and the house arranged as it is, a pipeless furnace would not be satisfactory and so I am taking the matter in hand to order the PipeFurnace. Hope you will back me in the matter. The bill from Montgomery Ward & Co sold be for $200.00

Boat just ready to go, so Thanks,

Yours truly,

A. D. Swoggon

Metlakatla, Alaska. Nov. 14, 1938.

Dr. J. F. Somerndike
New York City, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike;

Your letter of Oct. 21st, reached me last Mon., and was very welcome indeed We were very concerned about the heater arrangements, and were wondering what we would do, when your letter came along with the generous offer.

In putting in the basement, I arranged to have it under the kitchen and bath-room, so that the pipes would be protected. Funds were so limited, and help so difficult to get, that I put in a small basement, not extending under the living-room, or dining-room. For this reason the pipe-less furnace is out of the question. Too, as a pipeless furnace would not heat the up-stairs, I did not include the upstairs in the present order. I ordered the pipe furnace at once, and hope to be able to have it installed, so that we may get into the house the last of this month.

Rev. Mr. Beck is helping me with the inside finishing. Some of the young people of the Church are giving of their time in the completion of the house. Especially worthy of mention, is Francis Dundas a graduate of Sitka, S.J.S. He is doing the plumbing work, and is doing a very neat piece of work. Samuel Murchison and Geo. Lawson other former Sitka students have helped with the house. And Mr. Leask the carpenter who did such splendid work this summer is also a former Sitka student.

The cost of the pipe furnace will be $200. complete, exclusive of freight. The excess in cost has been saved in other ways, and the satisfaction in the complete heating arrangment will, I am sure, be very much better than it would have been with the pipe-less furnace.

Cordially yours,

A. L. Swoggan

Metlakatla, Alaska.
Nov. 14, '38

Rev. Russell C. Pederson
Chairman Natl Mission Com

I am hereby making request for rent allowance for the month of November ~~in~~ in excess of the new years' budget.

We hope to be in the new house by the first of Dec, but cannot at this time make a definate promise.

Yours truly
A. E. Swogger

A. D. SWOPE R Nov. 14 , 1938.

NARRATIVE REPORT

This month has been quite different from anything I have experienced at any time in the past since coming to Alaska. Oct. 20th a case of Diphtheria was discovered in town, and immediately a check up was made to determine if there were other cases in town. After a three day check up, 7 other cases were discovered. The Dr. went into action so soon as the first case wss suspected, and a man was sent from Juneau to assist him. The Dr. did every thing in is power, to s prevent the spread of the disease. The school was closed, all public meeting had to be avoided, and visiting between homes was prohibited. Children were not allowed to pay on the streets, and a rigid quarintine was effected in the homes where the disease was found. The Dr. sure took hold of the situation with a firm hand, and not only has avoided the disease spreading, but by early inoculation has lessened the sufferings of the patients.

Diphtheria was not enough, but one case of scarlet fever was discovered. Every things is in hand now, and if the situation continues to improve during the next few days, the town quarintine will be lifted next Sat., snd so Church Services will be resumed next Sunday.

I was the only one in the town, during thse three weeks to have anything to do with public gatherings. I was called upon to conduct two funerals on succesive Sundays, both cases were T.B. patients.

Very great praise is due the Dr. for the manner in which he handled the situation, and the way he was able to get every one to co-operate with him, in helping to avoid the spreading of either disease.

During the time of the quarintine, especially the first two weeks, the town seemed almost like a ghost town, after Pide-Piper Hamlin had passed through.

How thankful we are that things were not worse, and that all will soon be normal again.

Nov.
28th
1938

Rev. A. D. Swogger,
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

I am glad to learn that you found such a satisfactory heater. When you are ready for the money, let me know and we will send you a check.

We will send you a check covering rent for the month of November as you have requested.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

P. S. Mr. Gould has just sent us the bill of Montgomery Ward for the heater and we are sending them a check in payment today.

J.M.S.

A. D. SWOPE December 1938.

NARRATIVE REPORT

And so the days fly rapidly by, and another interesting month is nearing a close. The Missionary has been a busy man, some times working as late as 10.00 or 11.00 inorder to get the new house ready to move into. The new furnace is installed sufficiently to be able to use it, and so we are high in hopes for an early moving.

After the epidemic life has resumed normality, and the business of the month is progressing.

Our Thanksgiving Service was a very good one, and the Church people showed a very good spirit. The morning Service was well attended, about 60 present. At 5:30 the women of the Church served dinner to its members. There were at least 125 present at the dinner. Music was furnished by the C. E. orchestra. The Offering for Missions at the morning Service amounted to $31.50

Monday night, the 12th the C. E. Society had its annual election. A good attendance was present, and the spirit of the meeting was very fine. Not all the people who wanted to be in office were elected, but that did not embitter them as so often happens. The hopeful spirit for the success of the future of orginization was splendid, and their Pastor is hopeful, for better things in the year ahead. The Social Comm. served a delicious lunce at the close of the meeting, and every one went home happy, at least so it seemed.

A. D. SWOTTER Jan. 16, 1939.

NARRATIVE REPORT

So much to write and so litle time to write it, that I do not know what to choose.

The past month has been one full of happenings. The Christmas and New Year services of the Church were interesting as usual and well attended. The Church was beautifully decorated with designs made of crepe paper over a background of evergreen. The Missionary had not yet moved into the new manse, but was able to entertain the choir on Christmas eve. The choir went out to sing Christmas music, in different parts of the village. It came to the manse about 2 A.M. Christmas morning. Rendered the usual music, and then were served refreshments, and on to the next. Refreshments were served to about 45 members. There was a good attendance at the morning service in spite of the fact that the so many were out during the night before. The morning service was we l attended, and the offering for Foreign Missions was very liberal, $20. At the evening Service the choir of 40 or more voices rendered the cantata, "The Cradle of Bethlehem" to an appriciative audience of 200. Our Church extended an invitation to the other Churches to enjoy the music with us, which invitatin they accepted.

On New Years eve watch-night service was held from 11:30 until 12:30 A.M. Again special music w as rendered by the choir. Then at the New Years Service the song servie was really inspiring. During the P. M. the Annual Congregational Meeting was held in the Church auditorium. The business of the Church. such as elections officers, hearing reports, &c was carried on in good order, and a very splendid spirit was manifest all through the meeting. The Duncan Church was rendering its cantata, and had extended an invitation to us to attend, which was accepted.

And so we labor , and so we Pray for greater spiritual fruits, that our group, so efficient in so many ways may greatly increas in its witnissing for the Master.

On Dec. 18, White Christmas was observed and collections for Haines home were brought in. Two large boxes of toys, warm clothing &c were contributed. Also five boxes of fruits, canned meats &c were collected. The lighter boxes were sent along as early as possible. The heavier boxes were kept until the "Princeton" came for them and to take two orphans to the Haines Home.

A. D. Swagger Feb. 20, 1939.

NARRATIVE REPORT

ENCOURAGING THE YOUNG: The old people who care for the Fri. night Prayer Meeting, flet that they should do something to encourage the younger people; so invitations were sent out to most of the young married people of the Church to meet with them. The response was very good inde d, about 86 were present. They conducted the meeting in the usual manner, until testimony time, then talks were given by many of the older ones, counceling the younger people to take up the work of the Curch, and go forward. At the close of the meeting refreshments were served, and more speeches were made, but of a lighter nature. The evening was well spent, andall went away happy.

BRINGING CHEER:- We have a very splendid custom of group visitation. After the Sunday evening Service a group will go to the home of the sick, and hold a song service, have a short talk by the Pastor, and then a few talks by the older people. Two such visits were made during Jan. and the sick ones were very much cheered by the Service. Almost always the family serves light refreshment to the visitors. Yes 'the more we get together the hap ier we are', is true here.

GOING FORTH TO PREACH:-Feb. 12th, a group of about 40 including a few from the Salvation Army, and the Duncan Church, went to Saxman to hold an all-day Meeting. About 18 of the choir, and a small orchestra went along. The day was fine, and all repor ed a splendid trip. Some of our people have relatives in Saxman, and they like to get back for the visit. Their visit seemed to cheer the Saxman people very much, and all were happier for the occasion.

C. E. BIRTHDAY:-Feb. 5th the Christian Endeavor took charge of the evening Service and conducted a program in memory of the founding of C. E. by Dr. Francis Clark. The meeting was well plan - ed, and every thing went along fine. New interest was created by having a young man recently up from the States, a teacher in the school, give a talk on the founding of the orginization. The young man was a good speaker, and the new voice was very refreshing.

INTERNATIONAL WEEK:- We just had a visit with friends from B. C. A group of 48 came over from Masset, British Columbia bringing two baske-ball teams, an orchestra, and some older people. In 1932 my predecessor Rev. Marsden took the choir and Elders over there for a trip. This was a return visit, and was very much enjoyed by all. The young people do not have the advantages on that side that we on this side do. They had heard so much about the Metlakatla basket -ball team, that they wanted to come over and get pointers. Too, some of the older members of the party had visited here, once, and they wanted their young people to meet with the Metlakatlan young people, as they felt the contact would doo them good. They spent a Sunday with us, and we had the pleasure of having their Lay-Reader from the Church of England preach for us. The visit was a very happy one, and I am sure profitable to both groups.

And so the unexpected is often coming up, but we make the most of it, and go forward. What new thing will I have to report next month? Wait and see!

A. D. Swogger April 29, 193[illegible].

NARRATIVE REPORT

This report includes the time spent in Presbytery, which time was well spent, and the weather for our trip to and from Presbytery could not have been better.

Rev. Mr Bromley and his good wife are to be highly commended for the way they took care of the delegates, and the co-operation of the people of Hoonah they had, which enabled them to put the thing over so succesfully. Their home was always like a beehive at the busy season, but always Mr. and Mrs. Bromley were calm and undisturbed, and always looking out for the comfort and convenience of others. Their home radiated the Christian spirit constantly, and nothing seemed to upset them. I think all came away the better for having spent the time in the radiance of their presence, which radiance was Christian indeed.

My first ministry, on returning from Presbytery, was to the sorrowing. Death claimed one of our pioneers the second day after our return. I was told by some, that the old man would not die until I returned, to take care of the service. He was not a man of great demonstration, but one in whose presence you could not help but feel that you were in the presence of faithfulness and uprightness. He was honored by the town in his death as in life. The town band escorted the funeral procession from the house to the Church, and thence to the burying place.

For Palm Sunday the Church was beautifully decorated with ferns. The President of the Women's Society and her two young boys had gone across the bay and gathered nice long ferns and Mrs. Swogger helped her place them in the Church.

The week between Palm Sunday and Easter was a busy one, with meeting with young people who were preparing to unite with the Church by Profesion; getting things ready for the Sunday School childen, an lother necessary things.

Easter was a busy day, but profitable to all. The Duncan Church oberved a Sunrise Service and gave breakfast to most of the people from both Churches. The Service was a very beautiful one, and the first of its kind to be held here. At the 11:00 o clock Service we observed Communion. The largest number was present at such a service, since my coming here, 115. The Pastor is happy to report an ingathering of 7 by profession of Faith and 1 by Certificate. At the Sunday School hour a brief Easter Progam was observed, and then the Children were given Easter baskets.
At the evening service the choir rendered a cantata, "Prince of Life" There were about 30 voices, and the music was beautifully rendered. Of all my six years here, I think this Easter Completion was the best.

Following Easter the Pastor went to the hospital for a minor operation. During his absence the Services are in the hands of the Elders. So working together we are striving to build up a Church worthy of its great Head.

A. D. Swogger MAY 15 1 9 3 9.

NARRATIVE REPORT

And so the weeks pass into months, and the months, how fast they come around.

During the two weeks I was not able to get around on account of the operation, the Church Serviceswere taken care of very ably by the Elders. It gives them a chance to have a real part in the Church work, and they like it. So they are happy and the work goes on.

A year ago there was a misunderstanding between two of the Elders, about about the arrangments for a Church Service. It occured while the Missionary was attending Pres. The men had been appointed to their places and times for Service, but one of the older Men forgot the announcment I had made, and made a public announcment that an outsider would take an evening Servte The Elder whom the Pastor had appointed for that particular time, was present and when he heard this announcment, took it as a personal matter; And until the other man would come to him and applogize he would have nothing to do with the Church work. In spite of every effort put forth to bring them together, the offended one would not bend. Two weeks ago his wife came to the so called offender and urged him and his wife to come to their house and have supper with them. They did, and after they had eaten the man who at first was so headstrong, spoke, and said he was sorry and was ready to shake hands. The other man expressed his willingness to be friends again, and so they shook hands across the table, and wiped out the old difference. The Missionary has known the two men for six years, and to see two such men acknowledge wrong, and ask forgiveness, is to the writer, a clear manifestation of the work of the Holy Spirit in their hearts.

A week ago a young man came to me and told of his experience in his home where there was some misunderstanding between himself and his wife. She was threatening to leave him, and would not listen to anything he would say. Suddenly it came to him that he used to see his Grandfather go down to their shop and pray. So he went down to the shop and prayed about the matter, came back to the house, went to bed. The next morning he said everything was as usual; both persons seemed to be their old selves again.

The Lord works is strange ways sometimes, but there is not the shadow of a doubt in my mind but that the Holy Spirit is working in hearts a lot of times, when we don't realize it.

A.D. SWOGGER June 18, '39

NARRATIVE REPORT

The old ,old story but always interesting to the Missionary, because he is able to see progress in the work of completing the new manse. The work goes faster now, when it does go, because Malcolm is home to lend a hand, and a mighty good hand it is too.

For the community welfare, we had a vist from the Seattle Chamber of Commerce June 9th, which was very fine indeed. It brought us a very fine musical program; the day was fine; the spirit of good-fellowship was splendid, and in all things the day was one long to be remembered.

On June 12th the S.S. Denali called in here to unload frieght, I was glad to get to met the three boys from So. Eastern Alaska who are attending college a t Dubuque Iowa. Boys I had met in the Young Peoples Summer Conference previously, and it sure was good to see them. To know that our boys who go out for education are making good, is a very great encouragement in our work wwith the young people. In fact the Missionary is very happy indeed to see so many of our young people back from school for the summer. Our 17 students who are back from Sheldon Jackson School for the summer are sure good to look upon. To see the change that has taken place within 9 short months is most encouraging. I always realized that S.J.S. was a wonderful school, but I can't help but eclaim in astonishment, when I note the change that has taken place is some of the young people.; keeping in mind ,of course, some of the material we sent up. Too, the Wrangell and Chamawa students are worth while. When all our students return for the summer, I mean by our students, Presbyterians, they will number at least 24 The Young People's Summer Conference was a success this year. I say that because of the report our young people brought back. We sent up only 4 this year, but when they reported to the Church as the custom is, we were all proud of them, and knew the Conference had been a success.

Just a word about our dissapointment. Rev. Mr. Pederson told me that Dr. Thorne would be with us June 11th, and gave me instructions how I was to use him. This information came to me from other sources too, so that it seemed quite certain his coming on that date wuld be realized. The Missionary made the announcement to the Congregation, and asked its cooperation. The cooperation was prompt and hearty. The choir got together and prepared music. There was an orchestra of 6 pieces, and choir of 35 voices ready. The Women's Society and some young people cleaned up the Church, and cut and carried away the grass about the Church. One of the Elders, a good carpenter, repaired the windown and door in the Church basement, to make it ready for pictures. In fact everything was in readiness, and the day appointed was perfect, for taking pictures. The Fri. before his expected coming, the "Princeton" came in and reported that plans had been altered, and that he would not be here until in July. Only those who know the Curch situation here can appriciated the let-down-feeling the Missionary experienced. Will Dr. Thorne Come then; will the people be busy in cannery; will the day be a fit one for taking pictures; will the Missionary be away at Synod' wait and see!!!.

And so endeth another month's report of attempted work for the Master. The work has been joyous in spite of dissapointments, and we continue into another month hopefully.

A. J. Swinger July 20, 1939

NARRATIVE REPORT

The month has been one full of interesting happenings, and with its encouraging features.

I am happy to report that the interest in the Church has been keeping up unusually well this summer. Of course the cannery has not been running long hours as yet, but there has not been the usual summer slump in Church attendance, so noted in past summers. On the part of some, a greater interest in the Church and its growth and improvement, has been very manifest. And some of those showing most interest seem most to the success of the work; ones who can be persons of influence for good. Our July Dominion Service was well attended, and the Service was an inspiring one to the Missionary as I am sure it was to many of those present.

The trip to Synod this year was very fine. It was so good to get to meet so many friends of other days, make new friends, and hear the inspiring addresses given by the visiting ones from other places. To one off in a lonely Field the meeting was very heartning. It deepener his consciousness of the oneness in a great undertaking, in which he one of a great host of workers, having a part in the great work of the Kingdom; and that the presence of the power of the Holy Spirit is being felt in many places. And so the Missionary comes back to his field with a stronger feeling that "The Lord does not leave his servants without a sure witness of the power and presence of His Spirit."

REV. A. D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

August 2nd 1939

Rev. Everet B.King,D.D.
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City,N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I wish to extend my hearty congratulations to you as you take up your new duties with the Board of National Missions,in the Sunday School work,and the direction of the Alaska Work.

I have been in the Alaska work nearly seven years, coming here from Sunday School Field in Eastern Oregon. There is much to be done here in South Eastern Alska,and the laborers are few. I feel so strongly that the Presbyterian Church has wonderful opportunities in this Field,if ony we can man it properly. But can we!!!?

The work here in Metlakatla is very encouraging,and the group constituting the Presbyterian Church is a loyal one. The membership is 163,a good Sunday School, an Endeavor Society of 125 or more,and a group of willing workers make up the Women's Missionary Society. This year there will be 25 or more young people going away to attend school,either H.S. or college. This number will be from the Presbyterian Church.

I hope you may be able to visit us here in Alaska, for then you will be the better able to appriciate the bigness of the work to be done,and the pressing needs so that the Stations may be adequately provided for.

Mrs. Swogger joins me in sending best wishes to you ,and extend a hearty invitation to visit us in our Metlakatla home.

Cordially yours,

A. D. Swogger

Aug.
10th
1939

Rev. A. D. Swogger,
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

I shall be glad to turn over to Dr. King your letter of August 2nd, welcoming him to the direction of the Alaska work. Dr. King is not expected to take up his duties here in the office until September 1st.

Mrs. Hayes has just been telling me of the very delightful time she had with the Swogger family. I truly envy the contacts she was able to make with you all and hope that it may be possible some day for me to make the trip, also.

With very kindest regards and best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

BH UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.

A. D. SWOGGER Aug. 17, 1935.

A part of the month was spent at Tyndl. The attendance at Sykal was much enjoyed, and found helpful and ispirational.

The fishing season was in full swing when I returned from the South, but not in the manner of past years. The run of fish this year has been very light, indeed, with no hope of it picking up during the remaining few days. I fear the contributions to the Church will lron off very much, but we will do the best we can.

The Church attendance has kept up very well during the summer, partly due to the short hours in the canneries, but let us hope, to an increasing interest in the Church and the things it stands for.
Have had more tourists this summer, due to the greater number of boats calling in here. Have had some interesting visits with some of the people. A few have inquired very interestedly concerning the work, intending to use the information this obtained in the interest of the Church work in general, when they return to their own communities. I have spoken to a number of groups telling about the work, its orginization, character, extent, and the evidences of growth in the larger work of the Church program. The last party to visit us was the Christian Endeavor tour of Southern Calif. Mr. Peterson was with the group, and so had prepared the people for their visit to the Mission work in Southeastern Alaska. Theough the boat did come in at 5:15 in the morning a goodly number were on deck and came up to the Church for a short meeting.

Just now Mrs. Swogger and I are busy with a Vacation Church School The attendance has not been so large, but some of the children have showed much interest in their Bible work.

Now the young people are getting ready to go away to school. The ones I am most concerned with are the ones going to Chemawa Jackson School, at Sitka. Eleven new students are goup up this Fall, and all must have a medical examination before ebing accepted

And so with the Church work, the community doings, work in the home and answering numerous letters &c, the months pass quickly.

And so we labor in faith, that some fruit will come forth of it all.

A. D. SWOGGER Sept. 18, 1939.

NARRATIVE REPORT

Another fishing season is over, and how different this one was in comparison with the two former years. The pack was just a little more than half as much. Besides the pack being so much smaller this year, the machinery in the cannery was speeded up, so that the people working in the cannery did not get nearly so many hours this year accordingly, as they had in past years. The greater amount of fish packed this year was taken in the traps. That meant our boats did not do so well. A number of details enter into the situation, making it one of uncertainty for the winter just ahead. Last winter and early Spring a great deal of work was made possible in the city and cannery for the men of the town. This winter, nothing like that will be possible. Perhaps two months of C.C.C. work in construction of roads, but only for a limited number of men. With prices going up;-well! we will just have to wait and see. I am sure the community will get thru the winter, but just what the reaction on the Church will be is a bit uncertain.

The Duncan Church is doing some improvment on the Church, as also some needed repairs. The Estate is doing the work, paying for labour. I understand that work will last nearly 3 months, and at present are employing a goodly number of men. They just completed a new house for the minister within the past year, of course employing their own workers. I understand the total expenditure for this and Church will be close to $24.000.

I called a meeting of the Deacons(or Trustees) last evening to discuss the project of reroofing the Church.; how to raise money for the purchase of shingles, and the matter of getting the work done. We in the Presbyterian Church do not have an Estate to fall on for making needed repairs &c. Supplies must be secured by means of locally raised monies, and the work must be done by our own members, and without pay.

The contrasting situation does not exist alone in the community, but within families. We have instances of where one brother is in the Presbyterian Church, and another in the United Church; a wife in one Church and husband in the other. These are conditions which are not good, but conditions which will be righted very slowly, and after much time. A

And we of the Presbyterian Church cannot turn to the Board when our property is in need of repair, with any hope of receiving help.

Dr. King, I would not have you think I am painting a dark picture of the situation here in the spirit of discouragment; I am just giving a few facts.

I think the members of the Presbyterian Church are a most loyal bunch, and are always ready to back me in every reasonable request. The six deacons present last night never once mentioned the Duncan Church or sounded one intimation of discouragment, but took up the work in the spirit of, "the work is ours and we must do it".

At the close of the canning season, many of the people went out to camp, to catch and prepare their winters supply of meat. Because of that situation, the Church attendance is not so large, at present. There were 21 present in Church last evening. The Missionary was very happy to have the choir take hold again.

So we of the Presbyterian Church are going places with Jesus Christ.

A. D. Swogger Oct. 2[illegible], 1933

NARRATIVE REPORT.

The past month has been one full of activities. The last few days were spent in preparation for the World Communion Service. Letters were sent out to all the members of the Church, inviting them to participate in the Service. Also, bulletins were prepared for the Morning Service. All took time, as the Missionary had to do the typing, and mimeographing.

The respone was very good. Special music was rendered by our soloist. 65 partook of the Elements. This was a goodly representation, as most all the sein boats were out for the Fall fishing. I am sure all present eceived a blesing.

On the 5th of Oct. I went out on the Princeton to visit some of the Stations where there were no Missionaries. Our first port of call was Kasaan. There again as in all the villages we touched in this part of Alaska, the men were out on the fishing grounds. In spite of that we had a very good meeting. There were some [illegible] present at the evening meeting. The people were very responsive, and joined in the service most enthusiastically. We visited with the School teacher after the service, and found them very fine people, and ready to co-operate in any effort for the good of the community.

We left there the next morning and called at Wrangell, where we visited the Metlakatla students at the Institute. From Wrangell we went to Petersburg, where we spent the night on account of storm.

Leaving Petersburg we called at Juneau, and spent Sat. and Sunday there. Had morning and evening services, but the attendance was small both times as the men were busy in the fishing [illegible], just now over Sat. night which meant that the women were also busy, cooking and washing.

On Mon: we touched at Angoon, but as the village was almost deserted, did not stay. Gave greetings to Mrs. [illegible], Mrs. Geo. Betts, and Mrs. Jas. Johnson, then sailed on to Juneau where we spent the night. Had a meeting with the boys. Not so much encouragment there as we were not able to enlist any one who seemed to be a leader in religious matters.

Tue. we called at Hoonah, and spent the night with the Bromleys. From there we went to Haines, our destination for the trip. We had on board a small girl from Metlakatla for the Haines House. At Petersburg we picked up three more children for the home. Also we had on board for the home 12 cases of canned fish, meat, fruit, berries, dried fish, seaweed and a box of toys. From Wrangell we received more bones, and at Hoonah was the consultation. Three missionaries were sent out to get some fresh meat for the home. They were not successful in securing meat, but did bag one duck, and a full cast of clams. Besides these, Hoonah contributed a sack of flour, fresh bread, pies, dried fish, and three boxes of canned goods. The whole collection was a splendid one, and was very greatly appriciated by the folks at Haines. The next day we loaded four tons of potatoes for Sitka, but at 9:30 that night we were stopped in our course, and so came to an abrupt end the mission work of the gallant ship the "PRINCETON". No serious harm came to any of the persons on board, only to the ship and its cargo. God watches over those who try to do His Will.

A.D. Swogger Nov15 1939.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The second season for fishing was closed when we returned from the Princeton, and then followed hunting. The second season was not much of a succes for many of the boats. In fact some of the smaller boats did not make enough to pay expenses A number of the people have been able to get dear for putting up for winter use.

The old people of the Church who still insist on using their language, have a weekly Prayer Meeting which they conduct themselves. I attend, but only as a listner, as I do not understand the language, and so do not get much from it. They like to have me there, and I like to be there, to join in the singing, and sometimes take part. Last week they put on a special meeting for the young people. They invited all the young people of the Church, and following the devotional Service served refreshments. Following the refreshments a number of the olderpeople gave talks, giving council to the young people and urging them to lead a good life. The meeting was a splendid one. I marvel how those old people can stand up and bear testimony of what the Lord has done for them and the apt illustations many of them are able to use to make clear their meaning.

The Christian Endeavor is meeting again, and taking hold with some enthusiasm. Some of the young people are still out in camp, either hunting of trolling, but wil soon be returning, and then we will have more interest.

Our choir is busy again getting ready for Christmas, and are as faithful as ever. The cantata is a very splendid one, and the members are all very enhtusiastic about it.

And so our work goes along without complaint or fuss, but but steadily pressing forward, for the Church and the Christ.

Nov.
17th
1939

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger,
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

Thank you for your letter of October 30th, setting forth in detail the circumstances of the tragic event that took away the Princeton. I have not yet ceased thanking God that no lives were lost. As bad as the situation now is, it could have been much worse.

I have no definite word to send you in regard to a new boat. It will be necessary for us to charter a boat or make other provisions until some plan has been worked out.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

Metlakatla Alaska. Oct. 5th, 1939.

Rev. Everet B.King D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I feel lonely to-night and a bit depressed,as I go back in memory to those days early in this month when we were traveling on the "Princeton",visiting the out-of-the-way fields carrying children to and from Haines home,being an agent of helpfulness in a time of need,just going about doing good as the Master did when on earth,and our work was so abruptly terminated. Rev.Bingle said,if an answer is possible,he would like to get it. That question has occurred to me repeatedly. But always I have to pass by it without a satisfactory answer.

We left Metlakatla Oct.5th and went to Kassan for that night. I did some calling and arranged for an evening meeting. The attendance was very good,and the people were most sympathetic and easy to speak to. Urgent invitation was extended to come again,which I fully intended to do. The next day we went to Wrangell,where I visited the Institute and had profitable interviews with some of our young people from Metlakatla. In the afternoon we went over to Petersburg where we spent the night on account of storm. I also had a last visit with the Rev. David Taylor. Thier steamer chanced to be in that evening. Here we picked up three children for Haines House. We were taking the children away because the parents were such slaves to liquor that their aged and widowed grandmother had to care for them left the children hungry. The parents of two of the girls were in jail at that time,because of drunkenness, and the other mother was wandering about the streets begging liquor from any one who would give it to her. The City Nurse and Health Dr. provided clothing and food for the childrens trip.

From there we went to Kake and spent Sunday. The morning and evening services were not so well attended,but the general interest was good. Here as in Kasan and other villages farther along the trip,the men were out fishing;the time being the second season. The next day we touched Angoon,and had a brief visit with some of the women. We then went on to Juneau,where I had a meeting with the boys.

The following morning we went over to Hoonah, and spent the afternoon with the natives. Some some of the crew went out for a hunt, intending to get meat to send to Haines. They did bring back a sack of clams which we took with us to the Haines children. We left Hoonah early the next morning and reached Haines in the late afternoon.

I might say that our biggest reason for going to Haines at this time, was to take up contributions from the churches for the home. We had on board 12 [illegible] of canned fruit, meat, fish, vegetables, dried salmon, fish, box of toys from Wrangell 3 cases; from Hoonah canned fruit, fish, meat, flour, dried fish, pastry, and the dishes. Besides the supplies, were the four children, one from Metlakatla, and the three from Petersburg. The supplies were very greatly appreciated by the Haines staff.

The next day we loaded 4 tons of potatoes which were to go to Sitka. Miss Lawrence wanted to send three children back to Craig, and as we were intending to go there early, we took them along. We left Haines about 4:30, in a snow storm which the people said would not reach farther than 2 hrs south. Darkness came on, and still the storm, snow and strong wind, continued. A little after nine o'clock P.M. John Falconer told me the course to keep, and went down to [illegible] schedual with Juneau. Very soon I saw a light in the distance, which did not seem to be where I thought it should be.. I tried to call him by the bell in the engine-room, but he was not able to hear that onaccount of the noise from the radio. I then hurried down and asked him to come up for observation. He came up and changed the course slightly, thinking we were far enough from the light to miss the rocks. It did not prove so, however. After the first impact on the rock, when the boat settled back to normal position, we tried to start the engine, thinking to back off the rocks. The starter would not work. We tried again and again, but with no success. Then we got the children off, and some blankets and piled canvasses to protect them. Falconer then went back to the radio, to contact Juneau, and give them our location. My boy was with us on the rock, and he took care of the children, to see that they were in a safe place and protected. So we spent the night as best we could, and waited until 2:30 the following day before we were rescued. The delay in getting us off was due to the storm and high sea. We reached Juneau about 7:30 P.M. We sent the three children to the hospital for the night. The next day we were quite happy to find that no one was any the worse physically, on account of the experience.

Our judgin; of distance from the lights that night was very much hindered on account of the snow. The lights were not visible any great distance. From that island a rocky ledge extended out 1/3 mile Northwest, or toward channel we were following, so that had we been out that distance, we would scarcely have seen the light until nearly opposit it. Under the circumstances, I think the captain did all he could that night.

The boat is gone, and only we who have tried to serve the needy fields here in Southeastern Alaska by means of it can in any measure appriciate how much we will miss it.

I would say that it will have to be replaced in the veery near future, or we will have to retrench our work in this part of Alaska. There are a number of small but important stations which we as a Mission are responsible for, which can only be served by means of such a boat. Many children are able to get to Sitka because of the reasonable transportation on the "Princeton" whose parents would not be able to send them on the steamers. I can't concieve of carrying on our Summer Conference without such a boat. The nature of our meetings of Presbytery and Presbyterial would be greatly altered, if we had to depend on the regular passanger boats for transportation. Of the 17 towns and villages in which we have Churches, only six are served by the regular steam-ship lines, except for the few weeks in the summer when they come in to take out fish. If transportation by steamers was possible for Sitka students, and the Conference delegates, the cost would be probibitive for most of the parents. To charter suitable boats for such trips is quite out of the question.

Dr. Thorns' trip, when he was in Alaska taking pictures, would not have been nearly the success it was, had it not been for the "Princeton".

Friends of our work are not asking if we are going to get a new boat, but when are we going to ge it, and what kind.

I might say in closing, there is no other Church ready or able to take up our work at present, and carry forward the work of spreading the gospel. There is boat work to be done here in Southeastern Alaska, but it will not be done if we fail.

[illegible] found to replace the "Princeton" with a [illegible] boat.

Cordially yours, A. D. Swogger

A. D. SWOGGER December 18, 1939.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The present month has been one of victories, in one sense of the word. The Missionary feels that the Church has made definate advance, during the month.

For the Thanksgiving Service, it was suggested to the Duncan Church, by the Presbyterian representative that we hold a Union Service The suggestion was favorably recieved and carried out. The Duncan Church building was under repairs, so the Service was held in the Presbyterian Church . The visiting Minister delivered the sermon, the offering was divided, and the Service, the first Union one in the history of the Pres. Church , here so far as I can learn, was a success. The two Churches put on their seperate dinners, in the evening. This part, as I feel, was as it should be, as in this manner work of preperation and serving could be the more equally divided.

A member of the Duncan Church , a Pioneer, passed away a few days ago. They all think it is more fitting to have a funeral in the Church, especially for the older people. The Presbyterian was the only one available at that time. I let it be known that they could hold the Service in our Church if they so desired, which they did.

Dec. 10 we observed White Christmas for Haines House children. On the last and fateful trip of the Princeton some 14 cases of supplies such as canned fruit, vegatables, fish , meat &c were sent up to the home. So on the occasion of White Christmas, only smaller gifts were brought. There were about 80 packages brought in that night, and forwarded the next day, so that they would be there in time for Christmas.

Now all are busy in preperation for the Christmas. Mrs. Swogger is directing a Pagent, "Wise Men Worship" to be put on by the Sunday School, Christmas Eve. The choir is busy in preperation for their part in putting on the Cantata, Christmas night. Then Christmas morning will be the regular Christmas Service, at which time the Sunday School treat will be given to the Children.

So MY PEOPLE are learning to think more and more of others at the Christmas Season, in obedience to our Lord's command.

The season for re-election of new officers for the various orginizations in the town is on. Instead of the political divisions common in other places, the people here are very difinatley seperated by Church connection. In some families, the feeling is very strong and I believe I am safe in saying that in all the Native families jelousy for Church, exists in some degree. I do feel that the thing is going less , little by little. It is however a "Die-hard-thing", and only as the Spirit of the Master comes in, will the spirit of evil be overcome. PRAY FOR ME and MY PEOPLE.

A. D. Swogger Jan. 15 1940

NARRATIVE REPORT

I mentioned in my last report, the approach of the busy Christmas season. At this time I am able to look back upon the events connected with the Season, and talk about what happend.

Elections? yes elections and many of them, both in town and Church. Speaking of the whole, I feel that very good selections have been make in each instance. A good start is being made; how is the finish going to be? Well, you say, don't cross your bridge before you come to it, and so!!!.

The first event of Christmas week, was a Pagent sponsored by the Sunday School, "Wisemen Worship", directed by Mrs. Swogger, and assisted by our sons Malcolm and Dallas, Dallas arranging the lighting of the stage. It was well done, and much appriciated by the people. It was put on Christmas Eve. So much so, that the Women's Club of the town which was sponsoring a Community Christmas Tree requested that the pagent be repeated in the Town Hall. Some expressed the fear that people would not want to see it again; instead the Hall was filled with an appriciative crowd.

At 11 o'clock that evening the choir started out to sing chorals, stopping at some homes for light refreshments, and finally returning about 3 o'clock A.M. Christmas morning. At 11 o'clock the people were back at the Church for the morning Service, which was well attended That evening the choir rendered the cantata, "The Christ is Come", to a large and appriciative audience.

On Wednesday evening the Presbyterian choir from Ketchikan came over and sang their cantata, "That Old Song". Then on Fri. evening of the same week, our choir went to Ketchikan and gave the cantata in the Presbyterian Church. Before the evening Service, we went to the Broadcasting Station, and broadcasted three numbers. (If I brag just a little, forgive) Rev. Geo. J. Beck told me he thought the choir did the best he had ever heard them do. I thought they did well, and was very glad to hear him say so.

Sunday night, the Annual Watch-night Service was held. On the following Wed. evening Church elections were held.

Sunday morning Jan. 7th Communion Service was held. Two persons were received into the Church on profession. The one, a young man who had been a member of another Church, was uncertain about his baptism, and so requested baptism, just in case of doubt. Following the Morning Service, the Pastor and three Elders administered the Sacrament to 10 shut-ins in different homes. At the evening Service the newly elected officers of the Church were installed. One newly elected Elder was ordained to his office, before the installation. The people are very particular about being installed before taking up their new duties.

The desire for more music was not fully satisfied during Christmas week, so our choir sent an invitation to the Episcopal Church of Ketchikan, to visit here, and render the cantata, "His Natal Day", which took place last evening. I might say by way of explanation, that the Episcopal Church membership is made up of Tsimsheans, or the same tribe as our people, and in fact most of them are related in some way, to some one in our town, so that the occasion was very much like a family gathering.

So now we are ready for the New Year, and for WHAT??. Pray for us that our labours may be acceptable to the Great Head of the Church

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, Ch.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER, Ch.
SITKA, ALASKA
FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, Ch.
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. EDWIN E. KNUDSEN, Ch.
SKAGWAY, ALASKA
PENSIONS
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER, Act. Ch.
METLAKATLA, ALASKA
STATED CLERK (Acting)
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. Feb. 2d 1940.

The Rev. Everette B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I hope this letter will reach you before you leave for the West, to let you know how happy we are in anticipation of your coming to Alaska. I trust I may be able to meet you on your way North, and be one to welcome you to Alaska.

The matter of the replacement of our Mission boat is very much on my mind and heart. I have a friend in Ketchikan who has made me a very generous offer. Capt. Jennings, who is the New York Underwriters Alaska representative, has offered to bring a boat up from Seattle, if we are able to find one there. He is going down in March and said we would be willing to bring a boat up for us if we could find a suitable craft. He said further that he thought there would be a better chance to find a suitable boat on the East coast, and he would be willing to go East and bring it back for us thru the canal. I would like to have you meet him. I feel he was very kind to us in the way he handled the "Princeton" matter.

Dr. Somerndike had a considerable amount of correspondence with a Dr. Kohlstedt of the Methodest Church regarding the Duncan Church, here in Metlakatla, and also some having to do with the proposed "United Christian Council of Alaska". I hope you may have time, before leaving the office, to look over some of that correspondence, so that, should the matter be brought up while you are in Alaska, you may be reasonably familiar with the proposition.

Sincerely yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, *Ch.*
WRANGELL, ALASKA
UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER, *Ch.*
SITKA, ALASKA
FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, *Ch.*
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. EDWIN E. KNUDSEN, *Ch.*
SKAGWAY ALASKA
PENSIONS
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER, *Act. Ch.*
METLAKATLA, ALASKA
STATED CLERK *(Acting)*
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. Feb5th 1940.

Dr. Everett B.King ,D.D.

Seattle,Wash.

Dear Dr. King;

Lest I do not see you on yuur way North,I am writing you to ask if you will take the Bible period during our Presbytery meeting. A half huur each morning is devoted to Bible study, conducted as the leader may see fit. The men of the Presbytery would appriciate it very much if you would give such a course. I believe there will be three periods this year.

Then during the Afternoon Sessions it has been the custom to have to hours given over to (a.) Book review, and (b.) a Conference on some phase of Christian Ministry whould be of help to the men on the Field. I am sure you could give us something which would be of great help,and we would very greatly appriciate it.

Do I seem to be asking too much? Well, I have been here on this Feild for seven years, and very much alone. Except for the Annual contact with the men at the Presbytery Meetings,I have had to refresh my self from books and magazines.

Looking forward to a pleasant and profitable time during your visit to Alaska Presbytery,

I remain

Very sincerely yours,

Alfred D Swogger

Feb.
13th
1940

AIR MAIL

Rev. Mr. A. D. Swogger,
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

Today I have wired you asking you to arrange for Alaska Presbytery to meet in Sitka on March 13th. Enclosed is my proposed schedule. You will note from the schedule that that will be the most opportune time for the meeting.

The Yukon Presbytery, according to a wire from Mr. Youel, has been called to meet in Fairbanks on March 7th.

I am deeply sorry to hear of the illness of Mr. Pederson. I sincerely trust that no serious complications will develop.

I am sorry we cannot take advantage of the kind offer of Capt. Jennings. If his visit to the States were to be a little later, we might avail ourselves of his services.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BH

A.D. Swogger Feb. 16 1940

NARRATIVE REPORT

The past month has been full of surprises, and new experiences. The Duncan Church, which has been under repairs during the past months, is about ready for (reDedication), and notices have been sent out. Our Church received an invitation to attend the Servics and to participate in the Services. The Elders of the Pres. Church were not willing to give up our own Services, and join with the other Church, until they had some assurance from the leaders of the other group that past differences were at least in a measure made right. So a Committe from the Pres. session waited on the other group, and a joint meeting was arranged for.

The Elders from the two Churches came together, and talked thing over, and came to some sort of an agreement, that all past mistakes would be set aside, and they would go into the future, with more harmony, and good feeling.

After this adjustment, was effected, an acceptance was sent to the Duncan Church, for the morning worship, but stating that the remainder of the Services of the Pres. Church would be carried on. as usual. Promptly an invitation was forwarded to us, asking the choir to sing at the afternoon Service, and that I was to be the speaker. Day before yestrday, the minister asked me if I would participate in the Dedication Service, which was to take place at the morning worship.

So new and startling things are taking place, and why??? I have no suggestion to make, but will continue to hope earnestly that all may be well.

I went to Kasaan the 6th of Feb. and had a very warm welcome. The people are still hoping we may soon be able to give them a worker to lead them. It is still a Presbyterian Field, and ours if we will man it reasonably. Again I will say, I hope things may work out for the best.

The work in the home Field is going along well. To be prosaic, I might say' We are making progress.

And so we labour and PRAY and WORK.

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, Ch.
WRANGELL, ALASKA
UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER, Ch.
SITKA, ALASKA
FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. DONALD G. CHRISTIANSEN, Ch.
KETCHIKAN, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. EDWIN E. KNUDSEN, Ch.
SKAGWAY, ALASKA
PENSIONS
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER, Act. Ch.
METLAKATLA, ALASKA
STATED CLERK (Acting)
REV. ALFORD D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. Mar. 28 1940.

The Rev. Everett B. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

My people were very much dissapointed that you were not able to visit Metlakatla on your way out, and I am very sory that you could not be with us on Easter. It was a big day for us.

Our Church arranged for an Sunrise Easter Service at 7:30, followed by a breakfast in the Town Hall. There were nearly 250 attended the morning Service, and about 225 were ser ved at the breakfast. A general inviation had been sent out to all the town s people.

At the 11:00 o'clock Service Baptism was administered, reception of new Members, and the Communion. Nineteen persons were were received into the Church by Profession and two by Certificate. One hundred Twenty Eight persons par ook of the Communion; the largest number ever having taken Communion at one time since my coming here seven yeas ago. This ingathering brings our Church membership up to 292. Besides this number there are more than 70 baptized children too young to unite with the Church.

In the evening the choir of 46 voices rendered the cantata (Easter) "Jesus Lives" to a large and appriciative audience, and well might the audience appriciate it for the rendation was very splendid.

As things are shaping up now, I will reach Rochester just in time for the Pre-Assembly Conference. Leaving Rochester I will want to spend a few ays in Syracuse with the First Church, which has a part of my support. Then I wanted to go into New York for the out-going Missionaries Conference in June, hoping I might meet some of my friends from the Foreign Field. I want to spend a week or two in Western Penn. at my old home, and if possible be in Grove City for the College commencement. I am making known my wants, if there are contacts with Churches you wish to make thru me, I am sure arangments can be made.

Would it be possible to have a Summer Student come up and serve Metlakatla during the time I am out at G.A.? I do hope some provision can be made for the Field. My Elders are quite willing to carry on the work during my absence for a Sunday or two, but a month or more is too much. During the six weeks we were out in '37, Rev Beck served the Church, but that will not be possible this time, as he plans to be away this summer.

Very sincerely yours

Alfred D. Swogger

NARRATIVE REPORT

A.D. Swogger April 15, 1940.

So much to say and so little time in which to say it. I will however give some of the high spots of the past month's happenings.

After an inspiring meeting of Presbytery, and an adventurous journey to and from Sitka, through snow and storms, we reached home in time for Easter. Of course I had made as much preperation for it before leaving for Presbytery, as possible, and so tried to take up the preperations where I left off.

We were home in time for the Good Friday Service, and it was a very splendid Service, with a goodly attendance.

Easter worship began with a Sunrise Service directed by the Presbyterian Church. The Service was at 6:30 and was joined in by about 250 worshipers. Following this, breakfast was served in the town hall, sponsored by the C.E. Society of the Presbyterian Church. 225 were present for breakfast, and all voted the adventure a success. At the 11:00 o'clock service the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper were observed, and new members were also received into the Church. The Communion Service was the largest in attendance, since my coming here more than seven years ago. Nineteen were received into the Church on profession of Faith, and two by transfer from another Church Of the nineteen, most of them were adults. As I know the circumstances of their coming, and the many and varied influence at work about some of them, I certainly trust that the Lord answers prayer. The Service in the Church was not enough. Communion was taken to shut-ins in three different homes,, following the 11:00 o'clock Worship.

At the evening Service, the choir of 45 voices, supported by a six piece orchestra, rendered the Easter cantata, "Jesus Lives" to a large and appriciative audience. The rendition was very splendid indeed, and as we went from the Church that night, we went with the very definate consciousness that the Lord had been in His Holy place that day.

While we were away at Presbytery, the men of the Church started reroofing the Church. Weather conditions suddenly changed, so that the work had to be postponed. Weather permitting, the work was resumed, and brought to a quick completion. One crew of 25 men worked on the roof, removing the old shingles, and laying the new; another group rebuilt the chimney of the C.E. hall; another crew worked on the rebuilding of the front steps and landing of the Church.. Of course the men had to eat, and this is where the spirt of cooperation manifested itsself. The ladies of the Church prepared lunch and supper for the men, which was served in the C.E. hall. And all of this was done for the Church, without thought of pay.

Yesterday the Pastor was again made happy. A few people were on my list for Church membership, whom I had not been able to contact for the Easter ingathering, so I went after them last week. The result! three were received by Profession of Faith, and three by transfer from other Churches.

And so we rejoice and go forward laboring for and with the Master, in our soul-saving effort.

A. D. SWOGGER May 14, 1940

NARRATIVE REPORT

And so the summer is coming on apace, and the work of preperation for the fishing season is taking the attention of the men. Will the season be a good one, is the question in the minds of some, while others are saying, 'O yes, there are going to be lots of fish this season'. With the fishing as with many other enterprises I have observed in the past, the surest way to know is to count the results at the end of the season.

If only the more or less fish was the big concern for the Missionary life would be so much easier, but not so. The drink problem is a most trying one among my Indians. One of our men, a man of influence in the community, an elder in the Church, and who has ability, if only he would be good; but he drinks. He so abused himself, and the trust placed in him by the people, that it was finally decided to put him out of all high positions. I went to him and and showed him what was going to happen if he continued in his selfish way. I was able to convince him that he was on very uncertain ground, but that he still had a chance, if he would do the right thing. I then asked if he would sign a paper before witnesses promising to leave drink alone. And that if he broke his promise, he would without further debate, resign from office. At long last, he said he would. I then went to the other people, and pleaded for him, that he might have another chance. Finally the chance was granted, the paper prepared, and he signed it before three witnesses. That took place just recently, but I am very happy to say that reports are coming to me that he is making good. Brethern, pray for me and my adopted people, that they may grow and leave behind babyhood, and at least become young men and women in Christ Jesus, and that their Leader may have great wisdom, and great Grace, and be able to lead many of them into right pathways.

A. D. Swogger

June 15 1940

Narrative Report

I left Metlakatla May 14th for the meeting of General Assembly, and attended the Pre-Assembly Conference.

Sunday May 26th I spoke to two Sunday School groups in the Westminister Church in Rochester, N.Y. At 11:00 A.M. I spoke to the Junior Congregation & then to the Adult group. Wed. evening ~~June~~ May 29th I spoke again & showed movies of Alaska to an appriciative group of nearly 150. Doctor Mattice, the pastor estimated that I had spoken to 800 persons in his Church. The people seemed very much interested in the work, and most attentive.

On May 31 I spoke to the Women's Missionary Society in the First Pres Church in Syracuse N.Y. Also showed the pictures. Again I found a good reponse. The group was small but manifested a great interest.

Then I spoke once in New York City.

Now I am among my people & am to speak & show the pictures. Alaska will mean a lot more to a lot more people ~~to~~ by the time I sail from Seattle.

A. D. Swogger

JULY 16, 1940

NARRATIVE REPORT
Metlakatla.

At last I am home again after atending The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, visiting my old home in Western Penn. visiting other friends in other places and attending the meeting of Synod of Washington.

On my trip, I had some movie pictures with me, of life in Alaska, and some giving an idea of the work of the Presbyterian Church on SE. Alaska. During the time I was was gone, I showed the pictures eight times. Every where I sowed them, the people were enthusiastic about them.

Besides showing the pictures, I spoke to twelve groups about the work in Alaska. The total numeber to whom I was able to bring a messgge was 1500. Besides the ones who heard the message in the formal groups, I was able to tell many about the work, as I visited in many homes.

Folks are much interested in Alaska now, and so many know so little about the country. I feel that many of my contacts were quite worth while, and that the cause of Missions means much more to many people, after havinglistened to my mesage.

One Minister wrote me that he knew Missions meant much more to many people in His Church because of my visit there.

The meetings of General Assembly and Synod, splendid meetings both of them, were a great help to me, and I am very greatly indebted for the privilage of attending them, and contacting so many people of such high ideals.

And so I shall try to be a better Servant for Jesus Christ from this time forth.

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER
SITKA, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. VERNE J. SWANSON
HYDABURG, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. E. E. KNUDSEN
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska.
Aug.6th 1 9 4 0.

Rev. E.S.King, D.D.
New York,N.Y.
Dear Doctor King:

In answer to your communication regarding insurance, will say that I am already carrying as much now as I can possibly manage,with the present salary.

I have had three policies in the Presbyterian Minister s fund. Two have already matured. I am also carrying some accident insurance, so all in all ,I will have to refrain from further participation in insurance business for the present, much as I would like to .

Yours in haste,

Cordially

Alfred D. Swogger

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER
SITKA, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. VERNE J. SWANSON
HYDABURG, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. E. E. KNUDSEN
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. Aug.8th 1940.

The Reverned E.B.King, D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

A Minister from Buxton Oregon, The Rev. Robert Hood, wrote me about the possibility of work in Alaska. I had met him in Geneal Assembly, and had just mentioned Alaska, and its needs. I suggested Ketchikan for a possibility, and told him to write you about the matter. Tue, another letter came from him, asking that I write you regarding him.

I do not know the man, except as I met him in Gen'l Assembly but I do know his brother well, having been with him a year in Seminary, and keeping in touch with him since that time. If Robert is any think like the borther whom I know so well, he will be a good man for our work in Alaska.

I would like to see the the man be given reasonable consideration, partly because of the great need at present, and, alsoI feel he would be a good investment.

Cordially ~~yours~~,

Alfred D. Swogger

Alfred D. Swogger

August 27, 1940

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Alfred D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

In your letter of August 12 you have raised questions about the ordination service for Mr. Walter Soboleff.

It was my understanding that his ordination was to have been during the Young People's Conference at Sitka. Please inform me about that. If it is necessary to call a meeting for the ordination service, you should communicate directly with Mr. Leslie Yaw.

The "SJS" is going to be used temporarily in our work beginning September 1.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER
SITKA, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. VERNE J. SWANSON
HYDABURG, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. E. E. KNUDSEN
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

August 12 th 1 9 4 0.

The Reverend E. S. King, D.D.
New York, N.Y .

Dear Dr. King:
We are told to "Ask, and it shall be given" In accordance of Alaska Presby; they concurred in suggestion of Com'e of Christian Education that arrangements be made for Walter Sobolieff ordination at Juneau time of P Conference

I feel that we must have a meeting of Presbytery this Fall, to take up some very important matters. One of the most important is the licensing and ordaining of Walter Sobolefi. Now he is hampered in his work, which he shold not be any longer than possible.

Without a Boat, it is going to be difficult to get enough men together for a proper meeting, except at much expense. So I am wondering if there is any possible chance of the Board helping out the Presbytery in this time of need, in order to do the thing I think is so essential, as early as possible.

Time for the opening of school is againg approaching, and I am being asked by students and parents, 'when and how are we going to get to Sitka, in time for school.' Too, some are asking, when we are going to have another boat? I had hoped that Rev. Mr. Beck would bring some encouraging word, but NO. Is there a possibility that we will have a boat in time to get the LayWorkers to their Fields this Fall.?

My painting project is held up for the present, on accont of bad weather. I have made a start, and am anxiously waiting for the necessary break in the weather, to complete the job.

Cordially yours,
Alfred D Swogger
Stated Clerk of Alaska Presbytery

Check - not expended for travel for Clearance of Presbyp Comm
1 to 40.40

A. D. Swogger August 18 1940.

NARRATIVE REPORT

The fishing season has been in swing since the time of my return from the meeting of Synod, and as usual the activities in connection with the Church have been slowed up a bit. I am happy to report at this time that the Church attendance has kept up much better this year, so far, than in previous years. Yesterday was an off day, but at the morning Service, as the Report will show, there were 20 in attendance at the morning worship, and 18 in attendance in the evening.

There is not much one can do during this season, except keep in t touch with things, show an interest in the affairs of the town, and the work the people are doing; visit the sick and aged, and just be a friend to every one, helping here, comforting there, encouraging yonder, and try to go about doing all the good one can in all the ways one can.

Besides being a friend to man, there is work to be done around the Church building, keeping things tidy; meeting steamers when they come in, and talking to the people at the Church when the tourists visit .

Just now the Missionary is busy, weather permitting, with the painting of the manse. That is not a strenuous task, because, so far, I have only been able to work at the task one or maybe two days consecutively.

What the future outlook? The Army is building an Air Base on the Island just across the hill from us. Construction of some of the unites is already in progress, and it is reported that there will be a 1000 men here early in September. I understand it is to be a two yearprogram. Whether there will be such a large crew during the entire time, as is to be employed in the immediate future, I do not know. Then I might ask many questions regarding various things in this connection, but why worry! A difficult situation is going to be, and we will have to meet it.

Pray for us that the Church may deepen and strengthen its Spiritual grasp, that we may save our young people, from the

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER
SITKA, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. VERNE J. SWANSON
HYDABURG, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. E. E. KNUDSEN
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla Alaska, Sept 4th 1940.

The Reverend Everett B.King D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:
Your letter of Aug. 27th at hand, and I hasten to answer.

Walter Soboleff did not reach Sitka until late in June, after the Young People's Conference had closed, thus accounting for this not being Ordained before this.

A special meeting of Presbytery is not being called for this purpose. This is the time for the regular Fall meeting, and by consent of all the menbers of the Presbytery, this item is being included on the docket.

I consulted Mr. Yaw regarding the matter, before afranging for it, and he agreed most heartily with the plan. I quote his words, 'I most heartily approve the licensing and ordaining of Walter Soboleff at the Fall meeting of Presbytery.'

Cordially yours,

Alfred D. Swogger

September 10, 1940

Rev. Mr. Alfred D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

Thank you for your letter explaining the situation with Walter Soboleff.

At your regular fall meeting please extend to the Presbytery my cordial greetings and sincere prayers that the work in Alaska may continue to grow spiritually and numerically.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER
SITKA, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. VERNE J. SWANSON
HYDABURG, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. E. E. KNUDSEN
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla Alaska. Oct.18 1940.

Rev.Everett B.King D.D.
New york, N.y.

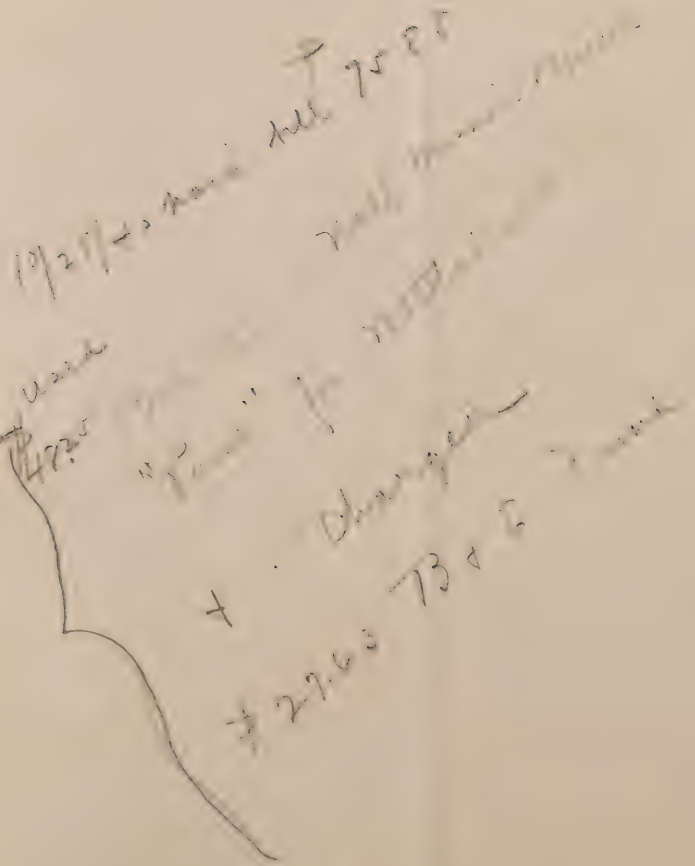
Dear Dr.King:

Enclosed you will find copy of the bill for the oil burner unite. Please send the remittance to me and I will turn it over to ~~[illegible]~~ S mith,and check up on parts when the burner if fully installed. I am sure it is going to add gre tly to our comfort during the winter,and will give me more time for other things.

Europe is not the only place where suffering occures,as the enclosed clipping will imdicate. Mr Beck told me ,he thought it was a bless ing the man was taken;that his face was dreadfully torn by the bear's claws.

Cordially yours

Alfred D.Swogger



MAIL—January—April—July—October to Everett B. King, Secretary Unit of Work in Alaska

QUARTERLY NEWS LETTER

From Rev. Alfred D. Swogger, Metlakatla, Alaska.

Church Metlakatla Presbyterian Church.

Date Oct. 9, 1940

NOTE—This quarterly news letter is to be written in addition to all other reports. Use it for reporting the outstanding experience or experiences during the past three months in your church.

During my trip to General Assembly, I was away from the Field eight weeks. During that time, except for two Sundays, the Elders carried on the two Services each Sunday. They would have some younger person take charge of the opening exercise, but they would always give the message. Mrs. Swogger reported that the work went along very well indeed.

The Vacation Bible School was put on during my absence. This year our school joined with the other Church, and both co-operated with the School (Public) in the project, which ~~wich~~ resulted in there being a splendid staff of trained teachers, Again I quote Mrs. Swogger as saying that the undertaking was a great success. The young couple serving the Ketchikan Church for the summer, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur, came over and helped with the school, and added greatly to the success of the work. He took the Church Services during the two Sundays present.

During my absence from the station, Miss. Esther M. McRuer Associate Secretary of Chicago visited the station, and was very much enjoyed by all, The folks were all very enthusiastic about her visit, and wished more like here would come often. And that is what we Missionaries so much wish; that more of our Church representitives from the East could visit our fields, to lend encouragment to us, and to back us in the work we are trying to do for the Master, or maybe correct some of us, if such is needed.

Early in Spetember our Presbytery met in Juneau. The Fall meeting is not always held, due to the great distances, and the difficulty of transportation, due to the frequent storms at this season of the year. But as some important matters should be cared for at an early late, it was thought best to arrange for the meeting, at the regular time. How the men wished there was a "Princeton" for the trip. Such a boat was not avaipable, and so we had to do the next best, and accept the services of the sein boat, S.J.S., which had just recently returned from delivering fish.

boat ~~boat~~ It is a sea-worthy boat, but not at all suited for a passenger boat. Woolen bunks were put in, in the hold for the ladies, of which there were only a few this trip. The galley was good, but small, so that only four persons could eat at a time. This made the arranging for meals difficult, when there were 20 on board, as there were from Haines to Juneau, our last afternoon and night.

To pass from the pilot house to the galley, persons had to go outside along the side of the house. This was not an easy thing to do when the sea was rough, and in the dark. What could happen on a dark night when the sea is rough, can easily be imagined by a person accustomed to boats The writer had charge of six children from Metlakatla to Haines, during two days and nights. They were young children between the ages of 3 and 7 yrs. What a relief when the boat finally reached Haines, and the children were finally given over to the care of the school. Traveling from Haines to Juneau, the men had to take turns in occuping the five bunks, so t that each might get some rest in a so-called bed. Well we had much to be thankful for. We reached our journey's end without any mishap.

At the meeting of Presbytery, a young man, one of our Indian boys, was licensed and ordained to the Gospel Ministry. He received his high school training at Sitka Mission School, and then went to Dubuque for further training. He completed his college and Seminary work there, and received his Master's Degree. During his time in Dubuque he was much in demand as a speaker in various churches. Some of the boys whom I were in school in Dubuque when he wwas there, spoke very highly of him. During the few months he has been in Juneau, he has won the great respect of many. Some of the business men of Juneau told me that they heard Mr. Soboleff speak at the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, and that he gave a splendid talk. I quote from the Juneau Empire of Sept. 16th" For the purpose of examining and ordaining Walter A. Soboleff minister of the Memorial Presbyterian Church, into full ministerial rank, ordination services were held last night. -----, Of special interest is the fact that not only is it an uncommon occurence for Alaska to have an ordination service, but it especially uncommon for the service to be performed for a fully trained Indian minister and this fact is further evidence of the progress of Presbyterian work among the Indians in Alaska."

October 16, 1940

Rev. Mr. A.D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

Your letter of October 1 has been received during Dr. King's absence from the office on a field trip. We shall bring it to his attention upon his return the latter part of this month and I am sure he will give sympathetic consideration to your request for supplies to be used in connection with Bible school work at the Army Camp.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. King

HEW:DH

NATIONAL MISSIONS
REV. RUSSELL F. PEDERSON, CH.
WRANGELL, ALASKA

UNITED PROMOTIONS
REV. JACKSON L. WEBSTER
SITKA, ALASKA

FOREIGN MISSIONS
REV. VERNE J. SWANSON
HYDABURG, ALASKA

PRESBYTERY
OF ALASKA

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
REV. E. E. KNUDSEN
SKAGWAY, ALASKA

PENSIONS
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

STATED CLERK
REV. ALFRED D. SWOGGER
METLAKATLA, ALASKA

Metlakatla, Alaska. Oct. 1st 1940

The Reverend Everett B. King D.D.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Yes, the meeting of Presbytery was very good, and all the men were especially happy in the ordination service, of Walter Soboleff. So far as I could learn, every prospect pl pleases. I talked with some of the business men of the city, and they were favorably impressed with the speach Walter gave at the Chamber of Commerce, where he was a guest of Rev. Glasse.

I will forward the rent monies of the Juneau manse, to you promptly, though I much prefer having ~~the~~ Juneau forward it direct to your office.

Mr. Beck wants to know if there is any place Sunday School Supplies can be secured for an adult group. Now that the AArmy Air Base is in construction on our island, and there are already 900 men sent up here from the States, and there is no Protestent work being done among them, Rev. Mr. Beck feels strongly that, not only could something be done for them, but that Bible work could be started, if supplies were availabl.e Any help given in this acute situation will be very greatly appriciated by some of the Army Officers, Rev. Mr. Beck and myself

Dr. King what kind of supplies would you suggest for this camp work?

Cordially yours,

Alfred D Swogger

October 25, 1940

Rev. Mr. Alfred D. Swogger
Metlakatla, Alaska

Dear Mr. Swogger:

I am making some investigation in regard to supplies or literature for the work in camps. Although I am not yet ready to give you a definite answer, I trust I can help you soon.

I rejoice in the splendid ordination service reported for Walter Soboleff. He is doing a fine work for us.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

A.D.Swogger November 18 1940

NARRATIVEREPORT

With so much unrest in so many parts of the world,we do not seem to be able to escape here in quiet Metlakatla . For a time, I w wondered if I was loosing my grip on things. As time went on ,and I was able to contact the leaders of the different orginizations in the Church,the other Church,and the town, I found many others were experiencing a like feeling. Just why it is as is, I don't know. I can only say that I have never before in all my eight years here experienced such a feeling of deadness of things.

The season was a poor one;some of the boat crews did not even make expenses,and the workers in the cannery did not earn much. When the Government decided to build the Army Base on the Isle,our people were given to understand that they would get work there. That is not working out as we had hoped. The cry going up around here is. " what are we going to live on this winter?" Enough on that line; they have not gone hungry during all the 54 years they have been on the island,and I am quite sure there will be no great suffering this year.

The Salvation Army held its annual Congress in Ketchikan early in Nov. and our choir was invited to take part in the music,which it did. Though the members had not had much chance to practice together,the choir did well,. Many of the people of Ketchikan mentioned to me,about how well the choir did. Too, the Commissioner commended them very highly.

Our C.E.group is taking hold again,and putting the shoulder to the wheel. If things work out as we all hope,I will have much of interest to report next minth.

We varied the Rally Day programthis year; instead of having it in the Sunday School,we held it in the evening and included the whole Church. Had a candle lighting service in connection with it. The Minister passed his light on to the heads of the different departments,and each one promised that he or she would carry the light back to the orginization represented. The service was beautiful,a and seemed to touch a responsive cord.

Had an interesting experience in visiting the sick, a few weeks ago. I called on an elderly lady who was very sick. We had a real good time together,and then I asked if we might have prayer before I left;. I went out with the feeling that I had just done my duty,but to my surprise, the husband met me the next day in the store and said to me, you know from the time you visited my wife yesterday ,and had prayer with her,she has been getting better right along. She did get better and is back at her place in the store.

No we should not be surprised,it is only another witness that God does what we ask Him to do, Answers Prayer.

A.D.Swogger Dec.18,1940.

NARRATIVE REBORT

Again the Church is taking on new life,at least in a fashion. Christmas is every where in the air,and hearts seem to be cathing the spirit.

Am I imagining things,or is there less of the commercial spirit abroad this year,than in previous years? Is there more of true Christmas spirit impelling the hearts and minds of my people this year ,than at other times? Well! I am going to give the Season's spirit the benefit of the doubt and proceed with heart uplifted.

The choir is diligently preparing a cantata for Christmas,and all who have heard parts of it a different times,are enthusiastic about it.

The Sunday School and C.E.is joining forces for the present. Instead of the C.E.having a seperate meeting,as before,it is joining with the Sunday School,and studying the regular S.S.Lessons. The Pastor suggested to the C.E. taking the young married people on Wed.evening for the International lesson,but that did not appeal to some. The union idea was suggested,and so is being tried out. W ill perhaps be able to report more on it next month.

The women of the Church held the annual bazar last Monday night. The amound and kind of fancy work prepared for that sale was wonderful indeed. Clever fingers did a ,lot of fine work,and the cooperation was splendid . When I saw the amount of things there were for sale,I wondered how much would have to be taken home for a later sale; but no. Before the evening was late,most of the things had been disposed of. It is always an event looked forward to by the people of the town. Fabcy-work in abundance and variety for the Christmas shopper; movies for the restless ones; popcorn and prize packages for the children,and others; lunch for the hungry shopper; and opportunity to visit one with another. the returns from the sales were good,and now the year's accumulated bills can be paid.

The third annual White Christmas was held this year,the evening of Dec.1st. A large and beautiful christma s tree ~~decorated~~ trimmed in white,with just a few colored things on it for contrast, was placed at the side of the pulpit platform. The choir had prepared special music for the occasion,and the service was simple but appropriate.

The purpose of the occasion was to collect gifts for the children in the Haines Home. The service was held early in the month so that the gifts might reach Haines before Christmas.

Things were contributed by people of the community,as well as by the folks of our own Church. Three large boxes were filled, numbering,I suspect 125 parcels.

The contributors take great pleasure in participating in the service,and are most generous in their giving. What happiness their gifts bring to those children. Some of them would not receive presents,except as these come to them,or some other thoughtful person remembers them. Thus the White Christmas which we are becoming accustomed to observe annually,is a two source of joy; the joy that comes in the giving,and the joys that comes to thelittle ones in the home. And so the Spirit of Christmas is kept alive.